

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Defense  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter Visclosky  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Defense  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Visclosky,

We write in support of the Civil Air Patrol's (CAP) funding request for Fiscal Year 2019. Specifically, we request \$33.6 million for CAP's operations and maintenance account, \$10.8 million for aircraft procurement, and \$1.7 million for vehicle procurement. CAP plays an integral role in supporting critical defense and homeland security missions. As the Air Force's official auxiliary force, investments in CAP contribute to enhancing our overall defense posture and augmenting our nation's air superiority.

This year, CAP is seeking a modest increase over what Congress is expected to appropriate for fiscal year 2018. This increase deserves full consideration due to CAP's expanding role as the Auxiliary of the Air Force and critical support to states and communities impacted by emergencies and natural disasters, such as last year's hurricanes and wildfires. Not funding this increase will severely impact CAP's ability to conduct essential missions of national interest and provide cost-effective community and state programs.

This increase includes a \$2.8 million increase for O&M over what is expected for FY18 due to issues beyond CAP's control. These include a Federal requirement for new GPS avionics in every U.S. aircraft by 2020 (CAP has about 560 aircraft), mission pilot training and counterdrug operations, and the need to replace non-repairable radios used to support lifesaving operations. A recent Air Force report to the SASC noted that the Air Force has failed to fully fund CAP O&M. In addition, aircraft procurement reflects an increase of \$200,000 for inflation.

Civil Air Patrol O&M includes missions, programs and headquarters that support emergency services/operations, youth programs and aerospace education/STEM. It supports various military and homeland security missions, search and rescue, disaster relief, air defense and other training, and dozens of critical missions. Its outstanding youth, citizenship, and educational programs reach over 25,200 young adults in CAP and it provides schools, teachers, and tens of thousands of students, STEM and aerospace support to help train Americans for the future.

Aircraft procurement will acquire about 15 small Cessna aircraft to modernize CAP's fleet. These low-cost aircraft meet evolving Air Force/FEMA requirements, provide advanced capabilities, and ensure that CAP remains capable of conducting complex missions. A recent Air Force SASC report validated CAP's aircraft fleet size (now at 560 aircraft) and replenishment rate. This request mirrors that rate.

Vehicle procurement will replace vans, pickups and SUVs (mostly 7 and 12 passenger vans) to ensure passenger and operator safety as well as to increase reliability and cost-effectiveness--average vehicle cost is about \$30,000. These vehicles support a wide range of operational missions, emergency missions and cadet programs every week in over 1,500 communities. They are critical to cost effective support of the cadet program—CAP operates over 1,000 vehicles.

In fiscal year 2017, CAP saved 110 lives using aircraft, ground search teams, and technology analysis teams. For 2018, to date, another 95 lives saved. During the natural disasters last fall, CAP provided emergency managers with over half a million critical aerial photographs for emergency management and recovery operations.

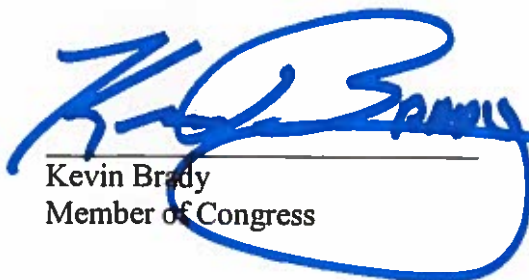
CAP is a cost-effective, growing public service organization with almost 59,300 volunteer professionals. Its aircraft cost about \$165 per hour to operate versus thousands per hour for a military aircraft and it saves the Air Force and states millions on search and rescue, air defense training, Green Flag, and other exercises. In addition to those savings, CAP members contributed \$177 million in volunteer support services nationwide during 2017—a more than 4 to 1 return on investment.

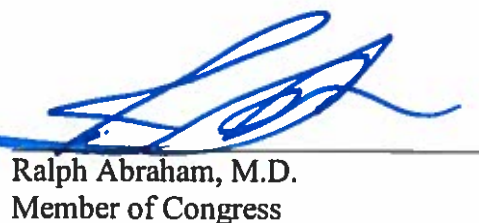
Civil Air Patrol is not an earmark; it is a program of national interest as both a congressionally chartered, non-profit corporation and the Air Force Auxiliary. For 75 years, it has selflessly served America in times of war and peace. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

  
Claudia Tenney  
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Elizabeth Esty  
Member of Congress

  
Kevin Brady  
Member of Congress

  
Ralph Abraham, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



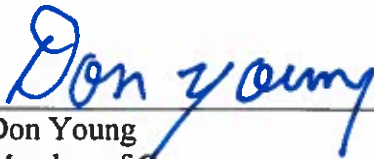
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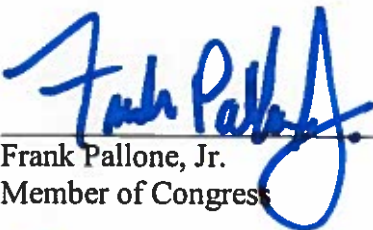
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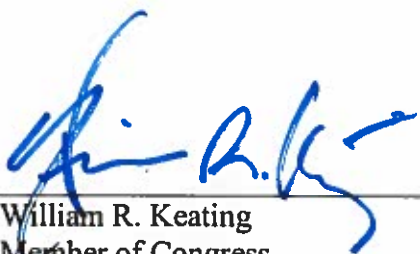
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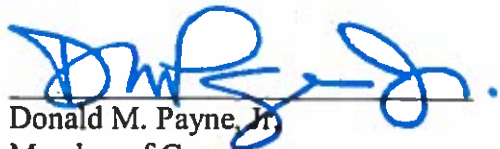




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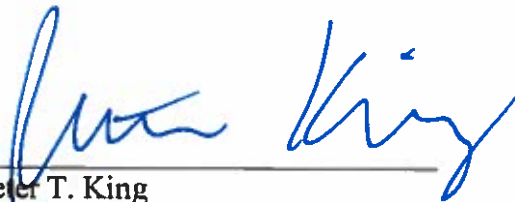
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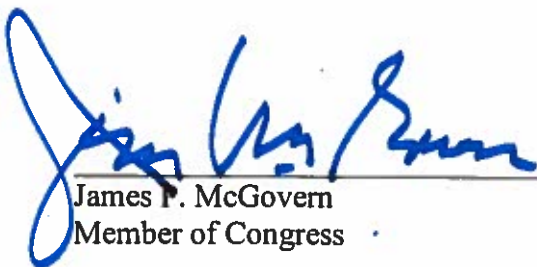
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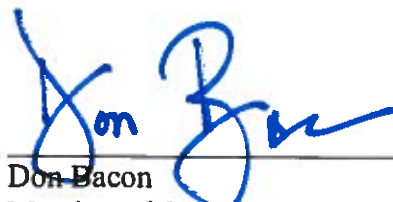
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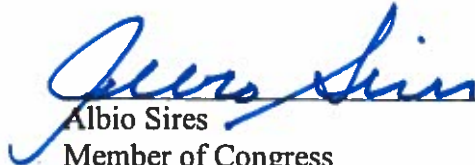
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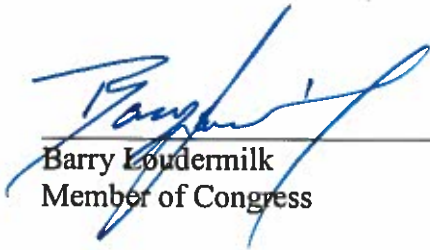
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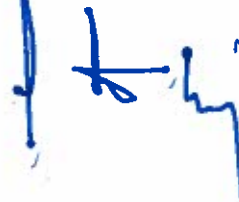
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